

MARBLE HILL COUP PLANNED BY LYONS

Bronx Fuehrer to March Into 'Sudetenland' on the Harlem Today (Unless It Rains)

ISAACS STANDING FIRM

Assures 5,000 Residents That No 'Appeasement' Shall Take a Foot of Manhattan Soil

Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs of Manhattan, the Benes of the bitter territorial controversy aroused by the demands of Bronx Fuehrer James J. Lyons for outright annexation of Marble Hill, stiffened his attitude yesterday as the harassed inhabitants of the "Sudetenland" on the Harlem, turned to him for succor in their hour of need.

He assured the 5,000 residents of the section that Manhattan would protect the "territorial integrity" of Manhattan and "resist to the death" the proposed Anschluss with the Bronx. A usually reliable source close to Mr. Isaacs said that he had been encouraged by the prospect that Westchester, fearful of a possible Lyons drive to the East, would come to the aid of Manhattan in the event of armed conflict.

Meanwhile, as war clouds became more ominous over the fifty-two-acre strip of disputed land north of the Harlem Ship Canal, it was reported that Borough President Lyons, secretly convinced that the time for continued peaceful overtures was past, planned a coup d'état. Today, if it's a nice day, he is expected to make a triumphal entry into Marble Hill, plant a flag on its summit and claim it in the name of the Second Bronx and Jonas Bronck, founder of the "Borough of Universities."

Gets Pledge of Loyalty

Mr. Lyons said he had been heartened considerably by "at least fifty favorable telephone calls" from residents of Marble Hill and a patriotic communication from "the Rabinowitz boys of the Bronx," who pledged undying loyalty to their fuehrer.

"We hereby volunteer to fight to free the loyal Bronxites of Marble Hill from the oppression of the despotic rulers of Manhattan," said "the Rabinowitz boys," who did not give their address in writing a post card to Mr. Lyons. "We have cleaned our rifles and sharpened our bayonets and are ready to answer the call to arms."

Mr. Isaacs, who originally agreed to a plebiscite "either by the League of Nations or the Board of Estimate" to determine whether the citizens of Marble Hill wanted to remain in Manhattan or join the Bronx, dropped his attitude of appeasement yesterday as Mr. Lyons became more truculent in his demands. In answer to a letter by Charles H. Levitt, an attorney, of 23 Marble Hill Avenue, who protested Anschluss with the Bronx, he wrote:

"You and the other good citizens of Marble Hill may rest assured that I will protect the territorial integrity of Manhattan and resist to the death any attempt at Anschluss with the Second Bronx. I realize that this is no mere border incident. What we have here is an effort to create by wholly artificial means 'sentiment' for the seizure of Marble Hill by the Bronx fatherland.

All Appeasement Barred

"You and our other fellow-Manhattanites living on the Marble Hill outpost of our cultured borough should know that I will neither surrender this historic territory to the Colossus of the North nor will I permit any umbrella-toting Chamberlain from Queens or Brooklyn to concede away Marble Hill in the spirit of appeasement.

"Our armed forces, I must frankly admit, are small, at present totaling one patrolman assigned to the office of the Borough President of Manhattan. Nevertheless, I am sure that Marble Hill will never hear the tramp, tramp, tramp of invaders' feet. Its terrain not only has historic beauty, but also lends itself naturally to the construction of any defenses necessitated by this new interborough crisis. Furthermore, all Manhattan will rise as one man to defend Marble Hill, which we regard as dearly as we do Times Square itself.

"You and all Marble Hill should remain calm, although watchful. Have no fear of strange noises in the night. The Lyons's roar is worse than his bite."

Undaunted by the results of newspaper polls showing that Marble Hillians opposed annexation by the Bronx, Mr. Lyons said he would take the matter up with Mayor La Guardia as soon as the Mayor "finds time to spend a few days in the City of New York."

Not Disheartened by Polls

"This is dominantly a Democratic city, temporarily under Fusion or other than Democratic control," he said, "but controversial matters of this character should be decided in a democratic way. I therefore hope that the Republican Legislature at Albany will pass the necessary legislation or enable the people of Marble Hill to decide in a democratic way by a referendum whether or not they remain under the Manhattan yoke or become free men in the Bronx.

"If and when Mayor La Guardia finds time to spend a few days in the City of New York, I intend to discuss the matter of procedure with him."

The Borough President denied that he had designs on any other territory except Marble Hill.

"Mention has been made of the possibilities of the Bronx taking over the cities of Yonkers and Mount Vernon and other such Westchester villages, then seceding from the City of New York and establishing a separate city of the Greater Bronx," he said. "Well, as far as Yonkers is concerned, its only claim to fame is that it is the next city to the Bronx. As for Mount Vernon, the least said the better. But Marble Hill is an entirely different proposition. It is geographically a natural possession of the Bronx. It is a cultural community, linked by environment, affection, habits and communal interest to the Bronx."